2.17 TAMIL NADU

2.17.1 Administration: Thiru A.N.Natarajan, I.A.S., continued to be the Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research, Madras, except for periods when he was on leave, when the Deputy Secretary to Government, Education Department, held full additional charge of the Archives. Thiru S.Singarajan, continued to be the Director of Archives and Thiru V. Kunhikannan Nair continued to be the Assistant Director. Besides, Thiru T.Venkatachalam assumed charge as Assistant Director (Personnel) with effect from 25th March, 1978 and Thiru Vincent Joseph assumed charge as Assistant Director (Conservation) with effect from 5th May, 1978.

2.17.2 Budget: During 1978-79, a sum of Rs.14.65 lakhs was spent out of the budget provision of Rs.17.61 lakhs on the non-plan side. On the plan side a sum of Rs.0.76 lakhs was spent out of the provision of Rs. 1 lakh. For 1979-80, a provision of Rs.18.53 lakhs has been made on the non-plan side and on the plan side Rs.1.01 lakhs has been provided.

2.17.3 Research and Reference: During the period 245 scholars availed themselves of the research facilities, 25,680 records by the Government agencies and 26,233 records by research scholars were requisitioned. Also, 845 queries from private agencies were attended to.

2.17.4 Publication Programme: The Publication Cell which was formed in November 1976 for bringing out 'Select Documents' on subjects of historical importance, particularly relating to the earlier half of the current century finalised selections on the following subjects: 1. The Tinnevelly Riots, conspiracy and Ashe Murder; 2. Discharged Prisoners Aid Society; and 3. The Legal Remembrancer. The select documents on 'Neill Statue Satyagraha' and the 'Bar Council of India' are presently under final scrutiny and those on 'Nidhis' and 'Origin and Development of the office of Sheriff of Madras' are being finalized.

2.17.5 Preservation of Records: During 1978-79, 5,641 sheets were flattened, 1,25,524 sheets were repaired with tissue paper, chiffon and acetate foil, 24,949 sheets were guarded, while 1712 volumes and books were bound.

2.17.6 Photo-Duplication: The State Archives has no microfilm unit of its own.

2.17.7 Library: During the period under report 3,249 books were acquired. As a measure towards of re-organisation of this office library, the posts one Librarian, 2 Assistant Librarians, 12 Library Assistants and 2 Last Grade Government Servants have been sanctioned by the Government. Out of these 11 posts of Library Assistants have since been filled up and action is being taken for filling up the remaining posts.

2.17.8 Other Activities: The "Archives Week" was celebrated in the State Archives, from 7th August, 1978 to 13th August, 1978 and on this occasion, the new building constructed for installing the Vacuum Fumigation Chamber and Lamination Machines imported from U.S.A. was opened by the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the machines were commissioned by the Minister of Education of the State.